

Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 16-09

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

Issuance Date: November 2, 2015

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM: ROSEMARY MALONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RE: FOOD SUPPLEMENT CALCULATION CHANGES

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

The Family Investment Administration (FIA) reviews the utility and telephone allowances each year to determine if they should increase, decrease or stay the same. Based on the most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Baltimore/ Washington area, the standard and limited utility allowances will increase. The telephone allowance will remain the same.

We are restating the information from AT 16-06 so that all of the changes are found in one AT. We have attached the updated FSP manual Section 600.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Below are the updates to the FSP calculation requirements. CARES has been programmed for the changes that took place October 1, 2015 and the migration takes place in December for the January 1 changes to the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) and Limited Utility Allowance (LUA).

- The **Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)** increases from \$402 to **\$403** per month.
- The **Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)** increases from \$245 to **\$246** per month.
- The telephone allowance remains \$40.

1. **Maximum Shelter Deduction** (October 1, 2015)

The **maximum shelter deduction** increases to \$504 per month

2. **Standard Deduction (Increased October 1, 2015)**

- The Standard Deduction for household size 1-3 remained unchanged.

- The Standard Deduction for household size 4 increased to \$168 per month.
- The Standard Deduction for household size of 5 increased to \$197 per month.
- The Standard Deduction for households of 6 or more people increased to \$226 per month.

Resource limit

The resource limit remains unchanged.

We have attached the updated Section 600 of the Food Supplement Program Manual.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 and systems questions to Randy Graybeal 410-767-7683.

c: DHR Executive Staff
 FIA Management Staff
 Constituent Services
 DHR Help Desk
 Office of the Inspector General

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600.1 STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY AND MAXIMUM ALLOTMENTS

- A. The standards for the following appear in Section 600, page 2.
1. Column A - Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards (130% of poverty)
 2. Column B - Maximum Net Monthly Income Standards (100% of poverty)
 3. Column C - Maximum Gross Income Standard for Elderly and Disabled Separate Household (165% of poverty)
 4. Column D - Thrifty Food Plan/Maximum Allotment
- B. Standards 1, 2, and 3 are used to determine household eligibility and not for computing allotments.

600.2 FORMULA CALCULATION

- A. Multiply the household's net monthly income by 30%.
- B. Round the product up to the next whole dollar if any cents result.
- C. Subtract the product from the maximum allotment amount for the household size found in Column D, Section 600.

NOTE: In an initial month, if the allotment is less than \$10, no benefit is issued. Except in an initial month, all eligible one and two person households must be issued the minimum allotment of \$16.

600.3 DEDUCTION STANDARDS

Standard Deduction	
Household size up to and including 3 people-----	\$155
Household of 4-----	\$168
Household size of 5-----	\$197
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$226
Excess Shelter Deduction-----up to	\$504
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance-----	\$143
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)-----	\$403
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$246
Telephone Standard-----	\$40

- * The excess shelter deduction does not apply to households with an aged or disabled member. These households receive an uncapped shelter deduction.

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600.4 Determining the Food Supplement Program Allotment

A. Determine a household's monthly food supplement allotment by using the Basis of Issuance Tables:

1. Calculate the household's net monthly income.
2. Compare the household's net monthly income to the maximum net monthly income standard, Column B below. Households that are not categorically eligible for food supplements will have net monthly incomes that are lower than or equal to the amounts shown in Column B.
3. Find the allotment by reading in the Basis of Issuance Tables, down to the appropriate income and across to the appropriate household size.

NOTE: A household that is categorically eligible is entitled to any allotment shown in the appropriate column on the tables. Persons in household sizes of one or two and categorically eligible are eligible for a benefit of **\$16**, even if the tables do not show a benefit amount at their net income levels.

	Col. A	Col. B	Col. C	Col. D
Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income* 130% of Poverty	Maximum Net Monthly Income* 100% of Poverty	Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled Separate Household* 165% of Poverty	Maximum Allotment
1	\$1276	\$ 981	\$1619	\$194
2	1726	1328	2191	357
3	2177	1675	2763	511
4	2628	2021	3335	649
5	3078	2368	3907	771
6	3529	2715	4479	925
7	3980	3061	5051	1022
8	4430	3408	5623	1169
Each Additional Member	+451	+347	+572	+146

* Maximum gross and net monthly income figures are not used for computing the food supplement allotment. They are included as a reference for determining the household's eligibility.